

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 8.

REMARKS

The failure of the examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 7, 2005 is incorrect. PAIR indicates the references cited in the July 7, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement were forwarded to The United States Patent and Trademark Office by WIPO. The PCT search indicates the significance of each of the references. To assist the examiner in considering these references, applicant forwards with this amendment copies of translations and abstracts, as available, of the references.

The drawings have been amended as required by the office action. In addition, an obvious error concerning the reference numeral "35" in Figure 8 has been corrected. In this regard, it is apparent from slot 75 of Figure 6 and the description thereof that reference numeral "35" in Figure 8 should have been "75." Figure 8 has also been amended to add reference numerals "60" and "72" so Figures 5 and 8 are consistent with regard to reference numerals for the disk plate, as described in both embodiments of the specification, and Figure 8 is consistent with Figure 7(b).

The specification has been revised, without adding new matter, to insert a cross-reference to the foreign applications relied on for priority, to correct syntax and to provide language consistent with the amended claims.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and replaced by new claim 8 that includes subject matter similar to that formerly included in claims 1 and 2. In addition, claim 8 requires the coupling portion to be axially displaced from the frangible portion and the remaining portion of the connector member. The frangible portion, coupling portion, disk plate and remaining portion are arranged so that in response to a torque applied to the frangible member exceeding a threshold the frangible portion breaks and the disk plate is not driven by the pulley or the connector member. The coupling portion of claim 8 reads on the coupling portion 32 of Figure 4(a) that is axially displaced from frangible portion 33 and the coupling portion 73 of Figures 7(a) and 7(b). The bearing of claim 8 reads on bearing 50 of both embodiments illustrated in Figures 3 and 6, while the insert of claim 8 reads on insert 31 of the embodiment of Figure 3 and on insert 71 of the

embodiment of Figure 6. The language of claim 8 obviates the rejection of claim 3 based on 35 USC 112, paragraph 2 and distinguishes over Kimura et al., US Patent 6,612,813, previously relied on to reject claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 under 35 USC 102(e) and claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a).

Kimura et al. includes pulley 32 and plural power transmitting recess 37 located at predetermined intervals around axis L. As illustrated in Figure 3, four power transmitting recesses 37 are spaced from each other at 90° intervals. Synthetic rubber elastic members 40 are located in the power transmitting recess 37, and frangible power transmitting pins 36 connect hub 35 to pulley 32. In response to an abnormality occurring in the compressor to cause the torque load to exceed a predetermined upper limit, one or more of the power transmitting pins 36 breaks and detaches from the hub 35. As illustrated in Figure 2(b), the break occurs at the interface between hub 35 and pins 36, not in the central portion of the pin as alleged in the first two lines of page 4 of the office action. Thus, the reference has no disclosure of a connector member including a coupling portion that is axially displaced from frangible pins 36 and the remaining portion of the connector member.

In response to pin 36 breaking, disk plate 35 must be replaced and pins 36 of the new disk plate must be inserted into flexible portions 41b and 42b of receiving portions 41 and 42 of elastic members 40. In addition, the new disk plate must be connected to compressor drive shaft 6. With applicant's structure of claim 8, as well as the structure of claims 3 and 4 that were rejected as being obvious as a result of Kimura et al., there is no need to replace the disk plate. Hence, applicant's claimed structure is easier and less expensive to replace than the Kimura et al. structure if the frangible coupler breaks. These advantages indicate the unobviousness of the structure of claims 3, 4 and 8 over the Kimura et al structure.

Allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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